IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1, 5, 7-9, 12 and 18-20 are being amended, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   An information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network,

wherein said storage module further comprises a system configuration information retention database ~~for retaining~~ that stores system configuration information including information about necessary configuration of each server module [[for]] configured to initiate execution of said service, [[and]] the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned, types of services to be executed and server performance, said service including an operating system and an application program;

wherein each of said server modules comprises a configuration information transmission unit ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit configuration information about each of the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting each of the server modules; and

wherein said storage module is configured to compare[[s]] the configuration information transmitted by said configuration information transmission units with the system configuration information retained by said system configuration information retention database[[,]] and give[[s]], in accordance with results of comparison, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to at least one server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, to assign[[s]] a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, to transmit[[s]] data ~~for executing~~ configured to execute the service included in the system configuration information, and to update[[s]] the number of server modules to which said service, ~~which is included in said system configuration information,~~ is to be assigned.

2. (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said server modules retransmits said configuration information if said storage module fails to transmit the data for executing the service when a

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predetermined period of time elapses after said configuration information is transmitted by a configuration information transmission unit of the at least one of said server modules, and each server module comprises an error reporting means for reporting a response error if a predetermined retransmission count is exceeded.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein the storage module reports an assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits the data for executing the service to said server modules.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 2, wherein the storage module prompts a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said response error or said assignment error is reported.

5.   (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 1,
        wherein the configuration information transmitted by each configuration information transmission unit includes a standardized CPU name and standardized CPU performance information;
        wherein said storage module further comprises a conversion information retention unit for retaining configured to retain conversion information necessary for conversion between server module CPU performance information and standardized CPU performance information required for running said service and a conversion unit for converting configured to convert CPU performance information included in each configuration information in accordance with said conversion information; and
        wherein said storage module compares CPU performance information converted by said conversion unit and corresponding information retained by said system configuration conversion information retention unit.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a logical partitioning means for logically partitioning a resource of said server modules,

wherein each configuration information includes information that indicates whether each of the server modules can be logically partitioned; and

wherein said storage module assigns the service included in said system configuration information to each one of a plurality of logically partitioned units.

7.   (Currently Amended) A server module which is connected via a network to a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by the server module and a controller for controlling said storage device, the server module comprising:

a configuration information transmission unit ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit configuration information about the server module to said storage module when the server module starts up, said configuration information including performance and resource information of the server module;

a reception unit ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive data [[for]] designed to execute a service ~~execution~~ by the server module and a host name unique to an information processing system which includes the server module, both the data and the host name being transmitted from said storage module; and

a service start ~~means for starting~~ unit configured to start the service in accordance with the received data, said service including an operating system and an application program.

8.   (Currently Amended) A storage module which is connected to a plurality of server modules via a network and equipped with a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, the storage module comprising:

a system configuration information retention unit ~~for retaining~~ that stores system configuration information including information about necessary configuration of each server module ~~for execution of~~ designed to execute said service, [[and]] the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned, types of services to be executed and server performance, said service including an operating system and an application program,

wherein each of said server modules comprises a configuration information transmission unit ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit configuration information

about each of the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting each of the server modules; and

wherein said storage module further comprises a comparison ~~means for comparing~~ unit configured to compare configuration information about said server modules, which is transmitted by the server modules, and the system configuration information retained by said system configuration information retention unit[[,]] and give[[s]], in accordance with results of comparison made by said comparison means, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to at least one server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, to assign[[s]] a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, to transmit[[s]] data ~~for executing~~ designed to execute the service included in the system configuration information, and to update[[s]] the number of server modules to which said service, ~~which is included in said system configuration information,~~ is to be assigned.

9.   (Currently Amended) A system construction method for use in an information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

with each of said server modules, transmitting configuration information about each of the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting each of the server modules, said configuration information including performance and resource information of each server module; and

with said storage module, comparing configuration information transmitted from said server modules with system configuration information including information about types of services to be executed, server performance, necessary configuration of each server module for execution of said service and the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned[[; and]], giving, in accordance with results of the comparison, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to at least one server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, assigning a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, transmitting data ~~for executing~~ to execute the service included in the system configuration information, and updating the

number of server modules to which said service, ~~which is included in said system configuration information,~~ is to be assigned, said service including an operating system and an application program.

10. (Previously Presented) The system construction method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

retransmitting said configuration information if the data for service execution is not transmitted from said storage module within a predetermined time after the transmission of said configuration information; and

reporting a response error if said retransmission is performed more than a predetermined number of times.

11. (Previously Presented) The system construction method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of reporting an assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing the service to said server modules.

12. (Currently Amended) An information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network,

wherein said storage module further comprises

a system configuration information retention unit ~~for retaining~~ that stores system configuration information including information about types of services to be executed, server performance, necessary configuration conditions for each server module for execution of said service and the number of server modules operating said service; and

a configuration condition request transmission ~~means for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to said server modules, at startup of the server modules, a configuration condition request including a request [[for]] designed to initiate necessary configuration of each of said server modules for the execution of said

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service[[; and]], said service including an operating system and an application program .

wherein each of said server modules comprises a comparison ~~means for comparing~~ configured to compare a configuration of each server module with each server module 'configuration required for execution of said service, which is transmitted to each server module; and a response ~~means for transmitting~~ unit configured to transmit response information, which indicates whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, to said storage module in accordance with results of the comparison made by said comparison routine[[;]], and

wherein said storage module gives, in accordance with said response information, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to at least one server module from which the response information is transmitted, assigns a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, transmits data ~~for executing~~ designed to execute the service included in said system configuration information, and updates the number of server modules to which said service~~, which is included in said system configuration information,~~ is to be assigned.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising an error report means for reporting a configuration condition error if none of said response information meets the requirements specified by said configuration condition request.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising an error report means for reporting an assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing the service to said server modules.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing system according to claim 13, further comprising an alarm means for prompting a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said configuration condition error or said assignment error is reported.

16. (Previously Presented) The information processing system according to claim 12, wherein configuration information request information transmitted by said configuration condition request transmission unit comprises a standardized CPU name, standardized CPU performance information, and conversion information that is necessary for conversion between server module CPU performance information and standardized CPU performance information required for running said service; and

wherein said server modules comprise a conversion unit for converting CPU performance information included in said configuration information request information in accordance with said conversion information; and

wherein said comparison unit compares CPU performance information converted by said conversion unit and corresponding information retained by said system configuration information retention unit.

17. (Previously Presented) The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising: a logical partitioning means for logically dividing a resource of said server modules,

wherein each response information includes information that indicates whether each of the server modules can be logically partitioned; and

wherein said storage module assigns the service included in said system configuration information to each one of a plurality of logically partitioned units.

18. (Currently Amended) A server module that is connected via a network to a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by a server module and a controller for controlling said storage device, the server module comprising:

a startup notification unit for notifying configured to notify said storage module of server module startup;

a reception unit for receiving configured to receive, from said storage module, a configuration condition request including a request for configuration of the server module that is transmitted at startup of said server module and necessary for the execution of said service for the server module, said service including an operating system and an application program;

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a comparison unit ~~for comparing~~ <u>configured to compare</u> the configuration of the server module with a server module configuration required for the execution of said service, which is transmitted to the server module<u>, said configuration of the server module including performance and resource information of the server module</u>;

a response unit ~~for transmitting~~ <u>configured to transmit</u> response information, which indicates whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, to said storage module in accordance with a result of comparison made by said comparison unit;

a reception unit ~~for receiving~~ <u>configured to receive</u> data ~~for service execution~~ <u>designed to execute the</u> service by the server module and a host name unique to the information processing system, both the data and the host name being transmitted from said storage module; and

a service start unit ~~for starting~~ <u>configured to start</u> the service in accordance with the received data.

19. (Currently Amended) A storage module which is connected to a plurality of server modules via a network and equipped with a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, the storage module comprising:

a system configuration information retention unit ~~for retaining~~ <u>that stores</u> system configuration information including information about <u>types of services to be executed, server performance,</u> server module configuration conditions required for execution of said service and the number of server modules operating said service<u>, said service including an operating system and an application program</u>; and

a configuration condition request transmission unit ~~for transmitting~~ <u>configured to transmit</u>, at the time of starting each of said server modules, a configuration condition request including a request for server module configuration ~~required for executing~~ <u>designed to execute</u> said service for each of the server modules,

wherein said storage module provides, in accordance with response information that is transmitted from said server modules to indicate whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to a server module transmitting response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, assigns a service included in the system configuration

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information to the server module transmitting the response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, transmits data ~~for executing~~ designed to execute the service included in the system configuration information, and updates the number of server modules to which said service, ~~which is included in said system configuration information,~~ is to be assigned.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method for use in an information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network, the method comprising:

sending a notification from said server modules to notify said storage module of server module startup;

transmitting from said storage module at said server module startup a configuration condition request including a request for server module configuration required for the execution of said service to the server modules, said service including an operating system and an application program;

comparing in said server modules the configuration of each server module with the server module configuration ~~required for execution of~~ designed to execute each service for the server module, and

transmitting, in accordance with results of said comparison, to said storage module response information indicating whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met; and

providing from said storage module, in accordance with said response information, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to a server module transmitting response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met is transmitted,

assigning a service included in [[the]] system configuration information from the storage module to the server module transmitting the response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, said system configuration information including information on types of services to be executed, server performance and a number of servers required for each type of service,

transmitting data for executing the service, and

updating the number of server modules to which said service ~~which is included in said system configuration information~~ is to be assigned.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The system construction method according to claim 20, further comprising reporting a configuration condition error if none of transmitted response information meets the requirements specified by said configuration condition request.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The system construction method according to claim 20, further comprising:

reporting an unassigned assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service which is included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing a service to said server modules.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 3, further comprising an alarm means for prompting a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said response error or said assignment error is reported.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The information processing system according to claim 13, further comprising an error report means for reporting an assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing a service to said server modules.

25.   (Original)   The method of claim 20 wherein the service is an operating system and/or application.